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T O P S E C R E T

GENERAL

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1. UK refuses advance commitment to Schuman proposals--

According to US Embassy London, the British Foreign Office is still unwilling to commit itself in advance to the essential principles of the Schuman proposal for pooling Western European coal and steel resources and therefore cannot accept the French view that such a commitment is a prior condition to participation in the planned seven-power talks. The UK has reiterated its desire to participate in any discussion of the question and to adopt a positive attitude generally toward the Schuman proposals, but has indicated its inability to make a prior commitment to pool resources and set up a joint authority. A Foreign Office spokesman has expressed to Embassy London the view that British participation is essential to the success of the planned talks and has declared that the British would have "a great deal to contribute."



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